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agree (~ skill) (~

ating vt (1530)

to make perfect

ed by sexual intercourse

ed — con-sum-ma-tor

sum-ma-tor \kən-
səm-mə-tōr/

the act of consuming

specif: the consummation

1648) 1: of or relating

g to, or being a reason

s a period of usu. great

importance, fr. L consummation

(14c) 1

in pulmonary tuberculosis

of consuming 3: the

tion of wants or in the

r destruction, deterioration

tending to consume

— con-sump-tive-ly

consumption

tus, fr. contactus, pp.

[CONTINGENT] (1626)

rent touching or mutual

of the disk of one body

transit, or occultation

through which a current

injection 2 a: ASSO-

CIATION c: direct view

in airplane esp. as an

ication with someone

l from a person or ob-

ject or source 4: ob-

ject of contact ~ vt 1:

in contact with: JOIN

b: to be in contact

age still object to the

commentators con-

s, involving, or active

ation of an airplane

ation of cellular under-

with accompanying

is designed to fit over

graphic print made

er, plate, or film

VF, fr. L contagio, pp.

[illute] (14c) 1

contact b: a contag-

virus 2 a: POSSI-

ble: corrupting influ-

ence (as a doctrine)

rapidly

le by contact: CAT-

d for contagious dis-

ease or conduct in other

iousness n

infectious disease

by abortion

[L, contagion, fr. con-

tile of causing a commu-

nitenir, fr. L contin-

enere to hold — more

a: RESTRAIN, CONTR-

olity of containment

ment) from advancing

o have within: HOLD

usu. without a remain-

— con-tain-able \kən-
taɪn-ə-bəl/

have or be capable of

sence of a specified

implies the capacity

contaminant \kən-tam-ə-nənt/ n (ca. 1922): something that contami-

nates

contaminant \kən-tam-ə-nənt/ vt -nat-ed; -nat-ing [L. contaminatus, pp.

of contaminare; akin to L. contagio contagion] (15c) 1 a: to soil.

stain; corrupt, or infect by contact or association (bacteria contami-

nated the wound) b: to make inferior or impure by admixture (iron

contaminated with phosphorus) 2: to make unfit for use by the intro-

duction of unwholesome or undesirable elements — con-tam-i-na-tive

\kən-tam-i-nə-tiv/ adj — con-tam-i-na-tor \kən-tam-i-nə-tōr/ n

CONTAMINATE, TAINT, POLLUTE, DEFILE mean to make impure or

unclean. CONTAMINATE implies intrusion of or contact with dirt or

pollution from an outside source (water contaminated by industrial

wastes) (the bigotry of elders that may contaminate young minds)

TAINT stresses the loss of purity or cleanliness that follows contamina-

tion (tainted meat) (his unkindness may defeat my life, but never taint

my love — Shak.) POLLUTE, sometimes interchangeable with contami-

nate, distinctively imply that the process which begins with contami-

nation is complete and that what was pure or clean has been

made foul, poisoned, or filthy (the polluted waters of the lake, in parts

flooded better than an open cesspool) DEFILE implies befouling of what

could or should have been kept clean and pure or held sacred and

commonly suggests violation or desecration (defile a hero's memory

with slanderous innuendo)

contaminate \kən-tam-i-nə-tōr/ vt -tam-ə-nā-shən/ n (15c) 1: a process of con-

taminating: a state of being contaminated 2: CONTAMINANT

contaminant \kən-tam-i-nənt/ n [F] (1787): a usu. short tale of adventure

contemn \kən-tem/ vt [ME. contempnen, fr. MF. contempner, fr. L. con-

temnere, fr. com- + temnere to despise — more at STAMP] (15c): to

view or treat with contempt: SCORN syn see DESPISE — con-tem-ner

\kən-tem-nər/ n

contem-plate \kən-təm-plāt/ vt -plāt-ed, -plāt-ing [L. contem-

platus, pp. of contemplari, fr. com- + templum space marked out

for observation of auguries — more at TEMPLE] vt (1592): PONDER,

MEDIATE ~ vt 1: to view or consider with continued attention: med-

itate on 2: to have in view as contingent or probable or as an end or

intention syn see CONSIDER — con-tem-pla-tor \kən-təm-plā-tōr/ n

contem-plate \kən-təm-plā-shən, -kən-təm-/ n (13c) 1 a: con-

templation on spiritual things as a form of private devotion b: a state

of mystical awareness of God's being 2: an act of considering with

attention: STUDY 3: the act of regarding steadily 4: INTENTION,

REFLECTION

contem-plate-ive \kən-təm-plāt-iv/ adj -iv, -kən-təm-/ adj (14c)

marked by or given to contemplation; specif: of or relating to a reli-

gious order devoted to prayer and penance — con-tem-pla-tive-ly

adv

contem-plate-ive-ness n

contemplative n (14c): one who practices contemplation

contem-por-a-ni-ty \kən-təm-p(ə)-rā-nē-ə-tē, -nā-/ n (1772): the

quality or state of being contemporaneous or contemporary

contem-por-a-ne-ous \kən-təm-p(ə)-rā-nē-əs/ adj [L. contemporaneus, fr.

com- + tempor-, tempus time — more at TEMPORAL] (1656): existing,

occurring, or originating during the same time syn see CONTEMPORARY

— con-tem-por-a-ne-ous-ly adv — con-tem-por-a-ne-ous-ness n

contem-por-ary \kən-təm-p(ə)-rē-ē/ adj [com- + L. tempor-, tempus]

(1631): happening, existing, living, or coming into being during the

same period of time 2 a: SIMULTANEOUS b: marked by characteris-

tics of the present period: MODERN, CURRENT — con-tem-por-ar-ily

adv

CONTEMPORARY, CONTEMPORANEOUS, COEVAL, SYNCHRONOUS, SIMUL-

TANEOUS, COINCIDENT mean existing or occurring at the same time.

CONTEMPORARY is likely to apply to people and what relates to them.

CONTEMPORANEOUS to events; both suggest time measured in years;

COEVAL refers usu. to periods, ages, eras, eons; SYNCHRONOUS implies

exact correspondence in time and esp. in periodic intervals; SIMUL-

TANEOUS implies correspondence in a moment of time; COINCIDENT is

applied to events and may be used in order to avoid implication of

causal relationship.

contemporary n, pl -rar-ies (1646) 1: one that is contemporary with

another 2: one of the same or nearly the same age as another

contempt \kən-tem(p)it/ n [ME, fr. L. contempus, fr. contempus, pp. of

contemnere] (14c) 1 a: the act of despising: the state of mind of one

who despises: DISDAIN b: lack of respect or reverence for something

1: the state of being despised 3: willful disobedience to or open

disrespect of a court, judge, or legislative body (~ of court)

2 a: SCORNFUL, CONTEMPTUOUS — con-tempt-i-bil-ity \kən-tem(p)-tə-
bɪl-ə-ti/ n — con-tempt-i-ble-ness n — con-tempt-i-bly \kən-tem(p)-tə-
bɪl-ə-
adv

CONTEMPTIBLE, DESPICABLE, PITIABLE, SORRY, SCURVY mean arousing

or deserving scorn. CONTEMPTIBLE may imply any quality provoking

scorn or a low standing in any scale of values; DESPICABLE may imply

utter worthlessness and usu. suggests arousing an attitude of moral

condemnation; PITIABLE applies to what inspires mixed contempt and

pity; SORRY may stress pitiable inadequacy or may suggest wretched-

ness or sordidness; SCURVY adds to DESPICABLE an implication of arous-

ing disgust.

contem-p-tu-ous \kən-tem(p)-ch(ə)-wəs, -tem(p)-sh-wəs/ adj [L. contempus]

(1595): manifesting, feeling, or expressing contempt — con-tem-p-tu-

ously adv — con-tem-p-tu-ous-ness n

contend \kən-ten-d/ vt [MF or L. MF. contendere, fr. L. contendere, fr.

com- + tendere to stretch — more at THIN] vt (15c) 1: to strive or vie

in contest or rivalry or against difficulties: STRUGGLE 2: to strive in

debate: ARGUE ~ vt 1: MAINTAIN, ASSERT (~ed that he was right) 2

to struggle for: CONTEST — con-ten-der n

contend \kən-ten-d/ adj [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. contentus, fr. pp. of continere

to hold in; contain — more at APPAIN] (15c): CONTENTED, SATISFIED

contend vt (15c) 1: to attain the desires of 2: to limit (oneself) in

requirements, desires, or actions

content \kən-tent/ n [ME, fr. L. contentus, pp. of continere to contain]

(14c) 1 a: something contained — usu. used in pl. (the jar's ~s)

(the drawer's ~s) b: the topics or matter treated in a written work

1 a: SUBSTANCE, GIST b: MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE c

the events, physical detail, and information in a work of art — com-

pare FORM 10c 3 a: the matter dealt with in a field of study b: a

part, element, or complex of parts 4: the amount of specified material

contained: PROPORTION

content analysis n (1945): analysis of the manifest and latent content of

a body of communicated material (as a book or film) through a classifica-

tion, tabulation, and evaluation of its key symbols and themes in

order to ascertain its meaning and probable effect

content-ed \kən-tent-ed/ adj (1526): feeling or manifesting satisfac-

tion with one's possessions, status, or situation (a ~ smile) — con-tent-

ed-ly adv — con-tent-ed-ness n

con-ten-tion \kən-ten-shən/ n [ME. contencion, fr. MF, fr. L. contention-

-tione, contentio, fr. contentus, pp. of contendere] (14c) 1: an act or

instance of contending 2: a point advanced or maintained in a debate

or argument 3: RIVALRY, COMPETITION syn see DISCORD

con-ten-tious \kən-ten-shəs/ adj (15c) 1: likely to cause contention (a

~ argument) 2: exhibiting an often perverse and wearisome ten-

dency to quarrels and disputes (a man of a most ~ nature) syn see

BELLIGERENT — con-ten-tious-ly adv — con-ten-tious-ness n

con-tent-ment \kən-tent-mənt/ n (15c) 1: the quality or state of being

contented 2: something that contents

content word \kən-tent-wərd/ n (1940): a word that primarily expresses

lexical meaning — compare FUNCTION WORD

con-ter-mi-nous \kən-tər-mə-nəs, kən-/ adj [L. conterminus, fr. com- +

terminus boundary — more at TERM] (1631) 1: having a common

boundary 2: COTERMINOUS 3: enclosed within one common bound-

ary (the 48 ~ states of the United States) — con-ter-mi-nous-ly adv

con-test \kən-test/ n [MF. contestar, fr. L. contestari (litem)]

to bring an action at law, fr. contestari to call to witness, fr. com- + testis

witness — more at TESTAMENT] vt (1603): STRIVE, VIE ~ vt: to make

the subject of dispute, contention, or litigation: esp.: DISPUTE, CHAL-

LENGE — con-test-able \kən-test-ə-bəl/ adj — con-test-er n

con-test \kən-test/ n (1647) 1: a struggle for superiority or victory

2: COMPETITION 2: a competition in which each contestant performs

without direct contact with or interference from his competitors

con-test-ant \kən-test-ənt/ n [also kən-/ n (1665) 1: one that partici-

pates in a contest 2: one that contests an award or decision

con-test-a-tion \kən-test-ə-ti-shən/ n (1580): CONTROVERSY

con-text \kən-tekst/ n [ME, weaving together of words, fr. L. contextus

connection of words, coherence, fr. contextus, pp. of contexere to weave

together, fr. com- + texere to weave — more at TECHNICAL] (1568) 1

the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can

throw light on its meaning 2: the interrelated conditions in which

something exists or occurs: ENVIRONMENT, SETTING — con-text-less

\kən-tekst-ləs/ adj — con-text-tu-al \kən-tekst-ʃ(ə)-wəl/ kən-/ adj — con-

text-u-al-ly -lē adv

con-text-ure \kən-tekst-ʃ(ə)-wəl/ n [F, fr. L. contextus, pp.]

(1603) 1: the act, process, or manner of weaving parts into a whole;

also: a structure so formed (a ~ of lies) 2: CONTEXT

con-tig-u-ity \kən-tig-yū-ə-tē/ n, pl -ities (1641): the quality or state

of being contiguous: PROXIMITY

con-tig-u-ous \kən-tig-yū-əs/ adj [L. contiguus, fr. contingere to have

contact with — more at CONTINGENT] (1611) 1: being in actual con-

tact: touching along a boundary or at a point 2 of angles: ADJACENT

2 3: next or near in time or sequence 4: touching or connected

throughout in an unbroken sequence (~ row houses) (the ~ 48 states)

syn see ADJACENT — con-tig-u-ous-ly adv — con-tig-u-ous-ness n

con-ti-nence \kən-tin-ən(t)s/ n (14c) 1: SELF-RESTRAINT: esp.: a re-

fraining from sexual intercourse 2: the ability to retain a bodily dis-

charge voluntarily (fecal ~)

con-ti-nent \kən-tin-ənt/ adj [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. continens, continens,

fr. pp. of continere to hold in — more at CONTAIN] (14c) 1: exercis-

ing continence 2 obs: RESTRICTIVE — con-ti-nent-ly adv

con-ti-nent \kən-tin-ənt, kən-tin-ənt/ n [in senses 1 & 2, fr. L. continens,

continens, pp. of continere, to hold together, contain; in senses 3 & 4,

fr. L. continens, continens continuous mass of land, mainland, fr. conti-

nent, continens, pp.] (1541) 1 archaic: CONTAINER, CONTINUES 2 arch-

aic: EPITOME 3: MAINLAND 4 a: one of the six or seven great

divisions of land on the globe b cap: the continent of Europe — used

with the

con-ti-nen-tal \kən-tin-ənt-əl/ adj (1760) 1: of, relating to, or charac-

teristic of a continent (~ waters); specif: often cap: of or relating to the

continent of Europe as distinguished from the British Isles 2 often cap:

of or relating to the colonies later forming the U.S. (Continental Con-

gress) — con-ti-nen-tal-ly -lē adv

continental n (1777) 1 a often cap: an American soldier of the Revo-

lution in the Continental army b (1): a piece of Continental paper

currency (2): the least bit (not worth ~) 2: an inhabitant of a

continent and esp. the continent of Europe

continental breakfast n, often cap C (1911): a light breakfast (as of rolls

or toast and coffee)

continental code n (1922): the international Morse code

continental drift n (1926): a hypothetical slow movement of the conti-

nents on a deep-seated viscous zone within the earth

continental shelf n (1892): a shallow submarine plain of varying width

forming a border to a continent and typically ending in a steep slope to

the oceanic abyss

continental slope n (1900): the usu. steep slope from a continental shelf

to the ocean floor

con-tin-gence \kən-tin-jən(t)s/ n (1530) 1: CONTINGENCY 2: TAN-

GECY

con-tin-gen-cy \kən-tin-jən-sē/ n, pl -cies (1561) 1: the quality or

state of being contingent 2: a contingent event or condition: as a

an event (as an emergency) that is of possible but uncertain occur-

rence (trying to provide for every ~) b: something liable to happen

as an adjunct to something else syn see JUNCTURE

contingency table n (ca. 1947): a table of data in which the row entries

tabulate the data according to one variable and the column entries

\ə/ about \ʌ/ kitten, F table \f/ further \ə/ ash \ʌ/ ace \ə/ cot, cart

\ə/ job \ch/ chin \e/ bet \i/ easy \g/ go \h/ hit \i/ ice \